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many matters. The work is introduced by an excellent chapter on the old civilization of Japan, followed by concise descriptions of the physical features and products of the country, the Japanese race, language, religions, government, activities, education, army and navy, life and habits. More than half of the book is given to the inner life of the people and its expression—their arts, literature and the drama, their morality and their “capacity for adapting what is good in foreign nations and moulding it for their own purposes.” The book gains in interest and value because it is simply written and because its design is to show clearly what the people are and what their potentialities may make them. The artistic pictures are from Japanese originals. This is one of two or three recent books on Japan that are worthy of special attention as occupying a different plane from the many books that give merely superficial impressions of the country and its people.

The Great Wall of China. By William Edgar Geil. xvi and 393 pp., 116 Illustrations and Index. Sturgis & Walton, New York. 1909. \$5.

The illustrations are the most striking feature of this book. They show parts of the wall from its seaward end to the place far inland where Dr. Geil and the stars and stripes appear impressively against a background of “the end of the Great Wall.” His photographs of the wall, along the hundreds of miles that he followed it to the west, are certainly very noteworthy. They show this tremendous work under many aspects and although Dr. Geil fails, throughout his large book, to give anything that approaches a systematic account either of the history or of the present aspects of the Great Wall, his numerous photographs are a valuable addition to our means of information concerning it.

His book is extremely discursive. After telling us that, when the building of the Great Wall began, the Hellenic world was discussing and admiring seven stupendous structures, he pauses to describe the Seven Wonders of antiquity. Here and there, he abruptly interrupts his story to introduce extraneous matter, such as a facetious paragraph from an English newspaper. That he was careful not to take his topic too seriously seems apparent both from his text and his map. He shows no map of the wall as it stretches across China, but imposes the wall upon a map of the United States to illustrate how far inland it would extend in our country. Only a comparatively small part of the book is given to the story of his journey or to a description of the wall as he saw it. The most of it is history, for the compilation of which there is considerable library material. The author gives translations of many of the inscriptions on the wall. A note by his publishers emphasizes the fact that the book contains no “long, dry, detailed, laborious description of the various styles of wall; there are reproductions from photographs which will furnish the information, without encumbering the letter press. The illustrations should be carefully studied during the reading of the book.”

Die Polarwelt und ihre Nachbarländer. Von Otto Nordenskjöld. vii and 220 pp., 77 Illustrations in the text, frontispiece in color and index. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1909. M. 8.

The interest in the polar world was never greater than it is to-day. With the present advanced knowledge of it, the fact is perhaps surprising that competent authorities have not yet undertaken to present in one convenient volume a good summarization of the enormous mass of information that has been collected. Not a few good books of this kind have been written about nearly all the other lands

of the earth and many of them are well adapted for the edification of the general reader.

We may regard this book by Prof. Nordenskjöld as an excellent example of what may be done, in this way, for the polar regions. He has not attempted, however, to cover the whole area of known polar lands but has given special attention to those Arctic and Antarctic territories and neighbouring lands, such as Tierra del Fuego, which he, himself, has visited. The book is very largely composed of a series of popular lectures which he delivered during the winter of 1907 at the University of Gothenburg. He gives no narratives of exploration, but his pages are filled with their results, the additions they have made to our knowledge of these remote parts of the world; and he presents the fruits of research in a simple and interesting manner. In his chapter on Greenland, for example, he gives the main facts that have been revealed to us about the inland ice, the coastal regions, the fiord territory of Scoresby Sound, the remarkable area known as Jameson Land, in East Greenland, where there are no glaciers and most of the land is covered with vegetation, the animal life, the origin of the land forms, the climate, Eskimos and Danish colonization. In the same way, he treats Iceland and Jan Mayen, Spitzbergen, the Antarctic lands and the colder parts of North America, Siberia and northwest Europe. The book is of only medium size, but in it is the essence of many volumes of exploratory and scientific endeavour. It is handsomely printed and illustrated and we may hope that it is only the forerunner of other works on the polar regions similarly planned.

Mission scientifique au Dahomey. Par Henry Hubert. 568 pp., Illustrations and Maps. Émil Larose, Paris, 1908. 15 frs.

This is one of the fine monographs on parts of French Africa, a considerable number of which are being issued by Larose. The author was officially commissioned to study the geological formations and the mineral resources of Dahomey and for two years (1904-6) he carried on his researches through a series of journeys into every part of the colony. He also gave large attention to the geography, climate and natives of the country and the result is that his work is the record of the most thorough and scientific study yet made of this part of Africa. Part 1 of his book is an excellent geographical description of Dahomey. In Part 2, which occupies the greater part of the book, he deals with the physical geography, geology, mineralogy, meteorology and petrography of the country; and in Part 3 he shows the influence which these physical phenomena have exerted in the distribution of the human inhabitants and of some species of vegetable life. The illustrative material, including 86 figures, maps and diagrams a geological map in colours and 49 photographic reproductions, are informing and the author had the advantage of consulting considerable map material still unpublished in the preparation of his maps.

Labrador, the Country and the People. By Wilfred T. Grenfell, C.M.G., M.R.C.S., M.D., and Others. xii and 497 pp., Maps, Illustrations, 6 Appendixes and Index. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1909. \$2.25.

We have long had the late Prof. A. S. Packard's book on the Labrador Coast, a volume of solid worth which is still useful. His work, however, was published eighteen years ago and a large part of our present information about the great peninsula has been revealed since that time. Many of the more recent discoveries and researches have been recorded in reports and books, but the present